Gon. O ho, I know the riddle, I will goe. *Enter Edgar*

Edg. If ere your Grace had ſpeech with man ſo poore,
Heare me one word. *Exeunt.*

Alb. Ile ouertake you, ſpeake.

Edg. Before you fight the battell ope this letter,
If you haue victory let the trumpet ſound
For him that brought it; wretched though I ſeeme,
I can produce a champion that will proue
What is auowched there, if you miſcary,
Your buſines of the world hath ſo an end,
Fortune loue you, *Alb.* Stay till I haue read the letter.

Edg. I was forbid it, when time ſhall ſerue let but the Herald
cry, and ile appeare againe. *Exit.*

Alb. Why fare thee well, I will ore-looke the paper.

Enter Edmund.

Baſt. The enemies in view, draw vp your powers
Hard is the queſſe of their great ſtrength, and forces
By diligent diſcouery; but your haſt is now vrg'd on you.

Alb. Wee will greet the time. *Exit.*

Baſt. To both theſe ſiſter haue I ſworne my loue, ſhung
Each iealous of the other as the ſtung are of the Adder,
Which of them ſhall I take, both, one, or neither; neither can bee
If both remaine aliue; to take the widdow (inioy'd
Exaſperates, makes mad her ſiſter *Gonorill;*
And hardly ſhall I cary out my ſide
Her husband being aliue: now then we'le vſe
His countenance for the battaile, which being done
Let her that would be rid of him deuiſe
His ſpeedie taking off; as for his mercy
Which he entends to *Lear* and to *Cordelia:*
The battaile done, and they within our power
Shall neuer ſee his pardon; for my ſtate
Stands on me to defend, not to debate. *Exit.*

Alarum. Enter the powers of France ouer the ſtage, Cordelia with her father in her hand.

Enter Edgar and Gloſter.

Edg. Here father, take the ſhaddow of this buſh
For your good hoaſt, pray that the right may thriue;

If

If euer I returne to you againe ile bring you comfort. *Exit.*

Gloſt. Grace goe with you ſir. *Alarum, and retreat.*

Edg. Away old man, giue me thy hand, away,
King *Lear* hath loſt, he and his daughter taine,
Giue me thy hand, come on.

Gloſt. No farther ſir, a man may rot euen here.

Edg. What in ill thoughts againe? men muſt indure
Their going hence, euen as their coming hither,
Ripenes is all: come on.

Enter Edmund, with Lear and Cordelia priſoners.

Baſt. Some officers take them away; good guard
Vntill their greater pleaſures beſt be knowne
That are to cenſure them. (incurd

Cor. We are not the firſt who with beſt meaning haue
The worſt; for thee oppreſſed King am I caſt downe,
My ſelfe could elſe outfrowne falſe Fortunes frowne.
Shall we not ſee theſe daughters, and theſe ſiſters?

Lear. No, no, come lets away to priſon
We two alone will ſing like birds i'th cage;
When thou doſt aske me bleſſing, ile kneele downe
And aske of thee forgiuenes, ſo weele liue
And pray, and ſing, and tell old tales, and laugh
At guilded butterflies, and heare poore rogues
Talke of Court newes, and weele talke with them too,
Who looſes, and who wins, whoſe in, whoſe out,
And take vpon's the miſtery of things
As if we were Gods-ſpies, and weele weare out
In a wal'd priſon packs and ſects of great ones
That ebbe and flow bith' Moone.

Baſt. Take them away.

Lear. Vpon ſuch ſacrifices my *Cordelia,*
The Gods themſelues throw incenſe; haue I caught thee?
He that parts vs ſhall bring a brand from heauen,
And fire vs hence like Foxes; wipe thine eyes,
The good ſhall deuoure em flesh and fell
Ere they ſhall make vs weepe; wele ſee vm ſtarue firſt,

Baſt. Come hither Captaine, harke. (come.
Take thou this note, goe follow them to priſon;

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